

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee
Annual Report 2012/13



www.georgesriver.org.au

 *Georges River, NSW*

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Chairperson's Foreword



The GRCCC had a great year, receiving widespread recognition and nationally acclaimed awards for its programs that continue to deliver improvements to the overall river health across the catchment.

The GRCCC was one of three finalists in the annual International RiverFoundation 2012 Australian Riverprize award. This is the largest prize for environmental achievement in the country and the GRCCC was the only finalist from NSW. The award recognises and supports those who have developed and implemented outstanding, visionary and sustainable programs in river basin management and on ground improvements to river health. This award reflects the strength of GRCCC programs.

The Estuary Management Program, ably steered by Alison Hanlon (former Program Manager), is now nearing completion of the draft Georges River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Plan was publicly exhibited during March and April 2013 and finalised in the months following. The GRCCC also received a grant from the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA to continue to service and maintain the Botany Bay water quality monitoring buoys for a further 12 months.

The River Health Monitoring Program won the 2012 National Urban Landcare Award. The Program continues to provide councils with valuable water quality data. The Program has collected 4 years of data in the Georges River and 2 years of data in the Cooks River. Numerous community groups, volunteers and school children participated in the program working alongside our scientists to undertake field sampling. In total, over 400 volunteers and 53 community groups volunteered over the last 2 years, well above the Government's targets. Member Councils recognised the value of continuing this successful program beyond the federal grant funding period on June 2013 and into the long term, and have agreed to fund the Program from their budgets. A review is planned for the new financial year to ensure the Program responds to member Councils' needs and reflects current best practice ecological monitoring for the Georges River and the estuary.

The Riverkeeper Program has maintained an exceptional level of service for all member Councils. Tony Wales and his Riverkeeper Teams continue to remove over 100 tonnes of rubbish annually from our river and rejuvenate bushlands. We acknowledge Corrective Services NSW for its continuing commitment to the Program. Similarly, we acknowledge National Parks and Wildlife for the use of their premises as our headquarters at Revesby.

The GRCCC also worked closely with elders and representatives from the Local Aboriginal Land Councils within the Georges River Catchment to develop a successful grant application to employ an Aboriginal bush regeneration team to restore high priority bushland on nominated sites across the catchment for a period of three years. The project 'Building

Indigenous Knowledge and Skills to Restore Urban Waterways' is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund.

The Communications and Engagement Program, co-ordinated so capably by David Kuhn continues to be an integral part of the GRCCC. It is the platform by which our great work along the Georges River can be spring boarded out into the wider community. The Program provides extensive ongoing support for all GRCCC programs, promotion, writing of award and funding applications, community engagement, event coordination, media engagement, website promotion and reporting of outcomes.

The Executive has continued to meet regularly and bring recommendations to the GRCCC for consideration. I thank all past and present executive members for their participation. The end of the 2012 council term saw new Councillors involved on the GRCCC Executive who have provided valuable input and commitment.

We are grateful to Hurstville Council for hosting the GRCCC. The staff has been helpful in the management of our financial and human resource business, increasing value and accountability strategies for the GRCCC.

I wish to thank Alison Hanlon for her hard work and ability that has seen the GRCCC grow into a strong incorporated association. I also thank her in her role as host Council Manager as well as Ian Curtis whom have both been invaluable to the GRCCC.

I also wish to thank all our stakeholders and partner organisations for their continued support working together and sharing responsibility to improve the health of the Georges River.

Finally, I thank the technical staff from each member council and community members for their enthusiastic support for our programs, advice, and assistance with on-ground works and attendance at our meetings.

Cr Naji Peter Najjar
GRCCC Chairperson

Program Manager's Report



I would like to take this opportunity as the new Program Manager to extend my appreciation and thanks to the GRCCC's former Program Manager, Ms Alison Hanlon. I wish Alison all the best in her new role at Hurstville City Council as Manager Environmental Sustainability. Alison worked tirelessly for a period of over 6 years, with numerous stakeholders, to build the GRCCC's program base and ensure the GRCCC, as an Incorporated Association, grow to its current strong and sustainable financial position. The GRCCC is a valued, well recognised and highly awarded regional association amongst the NRM and Sustainability industry. The GRCCC's key programs service member councils across a large catchment and have led to on ground improvements to the overall condition of the Georges River.

The last financial year was an excellent one for the GRCCC. Our programs performed very strongly and yielded great results for our member councils and were recognised widely.

The Committee's Riverkeeper Program has gone from strength to strength and maintained excellent results as expected across all program activities as seen in the Riverkeeper Report. We thank our partners at Corrective Services NSW and the many community members that participated in our activities this year for their continued support. The program also submitted a successful grant application for the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund to restore high priority bushland and establish ecological connectivity across 150 hectares of the catchment. The project 'Building Indigenous Knowledge and Skills to Restore Urban Waterways' is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund. The grant project will receive \$1.78 million over three years. The GRCCC worked closely with elders and representatives from the Local Aboriginal Land Councils within the Georges River Catchment to develop this successful grant project and the close partnership will continue through the implementation phase.

The Communications and Engagement Program produced solid outputs this year with the production of the GRCCC's Corporate Engagement Policy and the Corporate Sponsorship Information Pack to support its implementation. The program provided invaluable support to all GRCCC programs and also produced the Riverkeeper Report Card, launched a regular online newsletter titled the Georges River Current to further engage our catchment community, and David Kuhn overhauled the website to ease navigation. The program co-ordinated numerous events including the Cross Currents Art and Environmental Festival in November 2012 in partnership with the Bankstown Arts Centre as well as Clean Up Australia Day activities at a number of sites.

The GRCCC's River Health Monitoring Program continued in both the Georges and Cooks River Catchment. The program is highly valued by member councils and the community. This

has been demonstrated by Councils committing to the provision of ongoing funding to support the continuation of the program.

The River Health Monitoring Program excelled and exceeded all target milestones for community engagement of over 400 volunteers and 53 community groups. The program also incorporated the data of the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA's Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Program real time monitoring buoys to boost our estuarine data. However, the highlight of the year for the River Health Program was the winning of the National Urban Landcare Award from Landcare Australia.

The success of our programs this year is largely due to the staff of the GRCCC. The GRCCC team is a highly skilled, cohesive unit who bring great initiative to their programs while remaining focused on the needs of individual member councils. The staff has greatly assisted my transition into my role of Program Manager through their professionalism and dedication and I thank them for their continuing efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank the GRCCC's Executive Group, Cr Naji Peter Najjar (Bankstown City Council), Cr Peter Ristevski (Liverpool City Council), Cr Peter Scaysbrook (Sutherland Shire Council) and Alison Hanlon, Manager Environmental Sustainability at Hurstville City Council for their ongoing commitment to the Committee and the time they have given each month to progress the business of the Committee.

I look forward to welcoming the new GRCCC Executive Group and working with them to ensure the continued success of the Committee and the provision of quality programs for member councils.

Svetlana Kotevska
GRCCC Program Manager

GRCCC Executive Group Summary 2012 – 2013

The Executive Group is comprised of the GRCCC Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer / Public Officer, Host Council Manager and GRCCC Programs Manager.

In September 2012, local government elections were held which saw new Councillors appointed onto the GRCCC committee and in office bearing positions on the GRCCC Executive Group. The new members included Councillors Peter Ristevski (Liverpool City Council), Peter Scaysbrook (Sutherland Shire Council) and returning member Naji Peter Najjar (Bankstown City Council). We thank the outgoing office bearers including Julie Bourke (former Chair) who retired and Cr Peter Harle (former Treasurer) for their tireless effort and commitment to the GRCCC Executive. We also thank Ian Curtis (former host Council Manager at Hurstville) and also Alison Hanlon (former Program Manager) for their support of the GRCCC over many years.

During 2012 – 2013, the Executive Group has continued to focus on delivery of the Committee's M & I Plan, and in particular the financial, business and operational management of the GRCCC. The group has also worked hard to plan for the long term strategic needs of the Committee's programs and operations.

Key areas of focus and strategic planning have included:

- Working to secure the long term financial security of the River Health and Communications Program through the re-establishment of the Fee Review Cluster Group comprised of managers from each member council who considered 7 different funding scenarios. This included special briefing sessions held for new Councillors and the Executive Group on future program funding and the fee review. A review of the Communications program and funding requirements for the future was also undertaken.
- Meetings with GRCCC Stakeholders including the Cooks River Alliance to explore funding partnerships for programs.
- Planning and co-ordination of the public exhibition of the draft Georges River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan and amending the plan in response to submissions received.
- Development of a Corporate Sponsorship Policy outlining benefits for sponsors partnering with the GRCCC.



*Cr Naji Peter Najjar,
Chairperson*



*Cr Peter Scaysbrook,
Vice Chairperson*



*Cr Peter Ristevski,
Treasurer*

- Development of a volunteer agreement to emphasise that volunteers are assisting in the delivery of GRCCC programs and any media would focus on GRCCC program activities and objectives.
- Development of collaborative funding applications with key stakeholders including the Federal Government Biodiversity Fund Grant for the Riverkeeper Program.
- Organising the Cross Currents joint festival between Bankstown Arts Centre and GRCCC, the first Georges River Art and Environment Festival in November 2012 at Garrison Point.
- Organising and participating in events including the annual Clean Up Australia Day.
- The GRCCC Chair & Program Manager attended the River Symposium conference in Melbourne on 9 October as the Georges River / GRCCC were officially named as 1 of 3 finalists for the Australian Riverprize. The Program Manager also presented at the River Symposium conference on the GRCCC's integrated regional programming.
- Adopting the recommendation from Hurstville City Council's independent auditors that we move to 'Special purpose financial statements' rather than continue to use 'General purpose financial statements' to be included in the Annual Report. Special purpose statements are more than adequate for an incorporated association such as the GRCCC and will be quicker and cheaper to for the auditor to complete.
- Advocacy on behalf of members and coordinating submissions on the draft HNCMA catchment action plan.

Svetlana Kotevska - GRCCC Program Manager

Georges Riverkeeper Program

The 2012/2013 year has again provided positive environmental results for the Georges River through the Riverkeeper Program. The program proved flexible and responsive in dealing with changes in the structure of Corrective Services NSW and has continued to deliver large scale rubbish removal from the river system.

For the second consecutive year, annual rubbish collection was again greater than 100 tonne. Bush regeneration, continued across the catchment and community engagement enlightened the catchment community as to the importance, beauty and ecological function of the Georges River.

Key Riverkeeper milestones in 2012/2013:

- Collection of 103.6 tonne of rubbish.
- 18,406 m² of bush regeneration in remnant bushland within the river catchment
- A total of 44.5 hours of community engagement via education and promotional activity
- 30,684 community volunteer hours
- Partnering with Corrective Services NSW Community Corrections in the restructuring of the Intensive Corrections Order program to the mutual benefit of both parties
- Partnering with the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Authority Kurnell 2020 Program and Sutherland Shire Council on the Kurnell Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Project at Horning Street, Kurnell
- Clean Up Australia Day at Oyster Creek Estuary, Oyster Bay and the Milperra Drain Wetlands, Milperra where a total of over 600 kilograms of rubbish was collected
- Preparation and submission of a grant application for the Federal Government Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund.

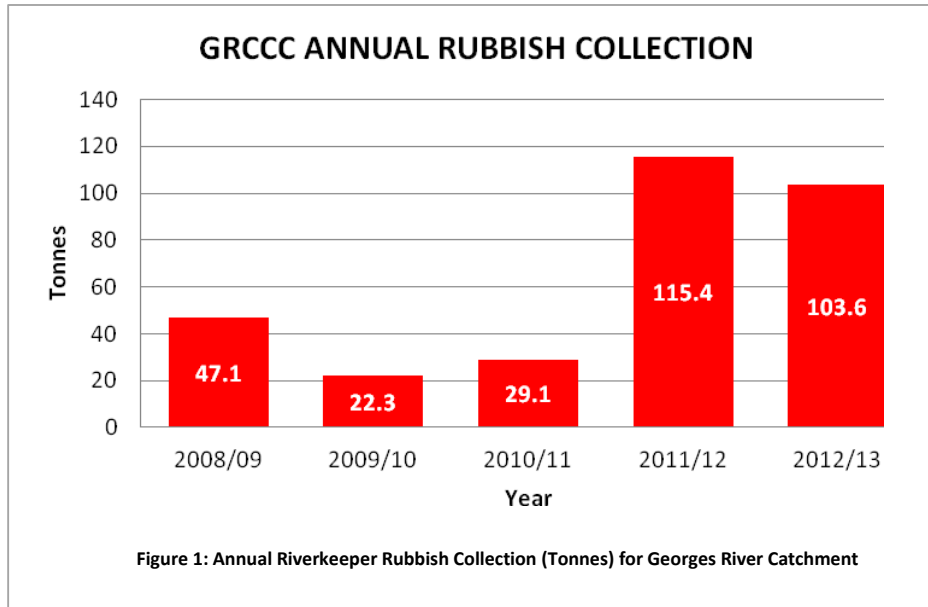
Restructuring within Corrective Services NSW and the transfer of the Intensive Correction Order Program under the umbrella of the Community Corrections Program resulted in some interruption to services for a short period of time. During this period the GRCCC worked closely with Corrective Services to ensure a smooth transition to the new program. The cooperation between both parties resulted in the GRCCC program being resumed with minimal disruption.

Overall the Corrective Services NSW Teams have been highly productive and their efforts have contributed to significant on ground outcomes.

The Riverkeeper Program aims to protect the ecological health and biodiversity of the Georges River system via the collection of litter and rubbish and the regeneration of weed infested remnant bushland. The improvement in the performance of the Riverkeeper Program since 2011 can be seen in **Figure 1** which shows the annual rubbish collection for

GRCCC Programs – RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM

the five year period from 2008/09 to 2012/13. The Corrective Services Intensive Correction Order Program was introduced in April 2011.



The Riverkeeper Coordinator works strategically with council officers who have been assigned to the Riverkeeper Program cluster group. Via the Annual Riverkeeper Workplan the council officers nominate priority sites for rubbish removal by Riverkeeper teams.

Table 1 shows the allocation of Riverkeeper teams and resources and the rubbish removal results for each Local Government Area. A total of 103,638 kilograms was removed by the program using 28,333 volunteer hours at 1,325 site visits across the catchment.

RIVERKEEPER RUBBISH COLLECTION SUMMARY - BY LGA								
Year To Date 2012/2013								
As At: 30 June 2013								
LGA	No. Allocated Days	Total Sites Visited	Volunteer Hours	Bags Collected	Bag Weight Kilograms	Extra Kilograms *	Total Kilograms	Downriver Waste Movement Reduction
Bankstown	73	174	4002	910	13650	915	14565	59075
Campbelltown	78	225	4314	1291	19358	860	20218	0
Fairfield	105	241	4998	1475	21863	770	22633	36443
Hurstville	48	105	2739	426	6383	325	6708	74290
Kogarah	51	141	2766	250	3750	115	3865	80998
Liverpool	88	191	3886	1061	15915	310	16225	20218
Rockdale	56	123	2920	505	7575	225	7800	84863
Sutherland	58	124	2686	608	9060	1915	10975	80998
Wollondilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NPWS	0	1	24	38	570	80	650	
TOTAL	557	1325	28333	6562	98123	5515	103638	

Table 1: Rubbish Collection Summary by Local Government Area

GRCCC Programs – RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM

The Riverkeeper Program uses Riverkeeper Teams to perform bush regeneration at nominated sites. Teams work to increase the biodiversity of remnant bushland and riparian vegetation on foreshores, creeks and tributaries through the targeted removal of weeds and a combination of revegetation and natural regeneration.

Table 2 shows the allocation of teams and resources and bush regeneration results for each Local Government Area. A total of 18,406 m² was worked by the program using 2,351 hours of volunteer labour over 37 days.

RIVERKEEPER BUSH REGENERATION STATISTICS SUMMARY - BY LGA													
Year To Date 2012/2013													
As At: 30 June 2013													
LGA	TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKSITES	No. DAYS WORKED	GRCCC SUPERVISOR HOURS (i)	VOLUNTEER HOURS	PRIMARY WEED AREA m ² (ii)	MAINTENANCE WEED AREA m ² (iii)	AREA WORKED SqM	WEEDS INSITU m ³ (iv)	WEEDS EXSITU m ³ (v)	TOTAL WEEDS CLEARED m ³	PLANTS TUBESTOCK PLANTED	AREA MULCHED SqM	TRACK WORK m (vi)
Bankstown	1	4	25	232.5	0	3450	3450	25	10	35	0	0	0
Campbelltown	2	6	61	413	3966	600	4566	171	98	269	0	0	0
Fairfield	1	1	20.5	44	0	570	570	13.5	6	19.5	0	0	0
Hurstville	1	4	24	180	0	1014	1014	8	15.5	23.5	0	0	0
Kogarah	1	3	35	196.5	80	876	956	13	13	26	160	140	0
Liverpool	3	7	44	436	2970	670	3640	190	0	190	0	0	0
Rockdale	2	8	26	579	565	2709	3275	23	2	2	0	580	0
Sutherland	1	4	25	270	365	570	935	69	0	69	0	0	0
Wollondilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NPWS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	37	260.5	2351	7946	10459	18406	512.5	144.5	634	160	720	0

Table 2: Bush Regeneration Summary by Local Government Area

Community engagement activities included presentations to Riverwood Probus, Kogarah Probus and Ryde Tafe Conservation and Land Management students, the Hurstville Environmental Bus and Recycling Week and a presentation to Kogarah Councillors as well as attendance at the Campbelltown Riverfest, the Oatley Lions Club Fair and the Cross Currents Festival.

The Riverkeeper Program through the use of its boats also provides water access to Councils for foreshore compliance inspections and for the GRCCC River Health Program and the HNCMA's real time water quality monitoring buoy maintenance program.



Left: Clean Up Australia Day volunteers pulled out a combined 700+ kgs out of three worksites.

Middle: Consultants assist with a plant-out of saltmarsh species (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) at the regeneration effort at Horning Street, Kurnell. The project began in 2011 with Riverkeeper Teams pulling out almost 15 tonnes of rubbish from the saltmarsh.

Right: Community volunteers at a cleanup near Cronulla.

Tony Wales – Riverkeeper Program Coordinator

GRCCC Programs – ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Estuary Management Program

The draft Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan (GRCZMP) was placed on public exhibition between 4 March and 12 April 2013. Seven submissions were received during public exhibition from community members, community groups and a government department. The GRCCC and the Office of Environment and Heritage reviewed and collated all public comments and issued them to member Councils for review. Minor changes were required to the plan addressing comments raised during public exhibition, where relevant.

Consultants BMT WBN, who prepared the plan on behalf of the seven participating member Councils of the GRCCC, were asked to incorporate these changes into the final report. The final plan has been issued to partner Councils for approval and adoption by each Council.

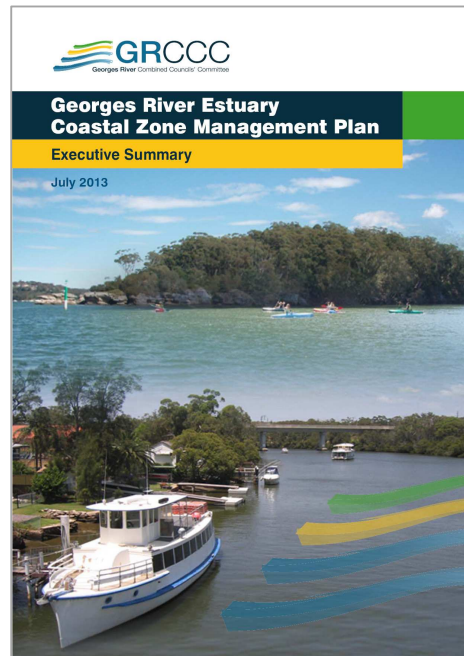
The GRCZMP sets the strategic framework and includes an action plan for the future management, over a period of 5-10 years, of the Georges River Estuary. The aim is to conserve and improve the existing natural environment of the estuary and improve water quality. The plan represents a coordinated and integrated approach to address many of the issues facing the estuary. The plan identifies issues and prioritises management responses for the estuary at the catchment-scale. Adopting a whole-of-estuary approach allows priority actions to be implemented that will have the best overall outcome for the estuary.

The plan recognises that the Georges River estuary is one of the most important estuaries in Sydney and is of high ecological, social and economic value and aligns management actions/priorities to reflect these values.

Study area for GRCZMP

The Georges River Estuary catchment area covers a significant portion of the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Region, with a population of more than a million people.

The CZMP applies to all estuarine waters of the Georges River, from Towra Point at the downstream end to Liverpool Weir at the upstream boundary. The Plan covers the river foreshores, the Botany Bay foreshore between Towra Point and Cooks River entrance (i.e. predominantly Lady Robinsons Beach) and all associated tidal waterways that drain into the study area (including Scarborough Ponds). As activities beyond the banks of the estuary can have a significant impact on its health, the entire catchment of the Georges River has



GRCCC Programs – ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

therefore also been considered as part of the Plan, insofar as it impacts on the condition of the estuary. This Plan does not cover any open coast sandy beaches or rocky headlands.

The Plan has undergone extensive review by relevant stakeholders, Council and government agencies, as facilitated through the GRCCC and the Georges River Estuary Management Committee. This includes the seven participating member Councils and other stakeholders:

- Office of Environment and Heritage NSW
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (now Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Department of Primary Industries / Fisheries
- NSW Roads and Maritime
- Sydney Water
- Community representatives

While the OEH advises that the Minister is not currently certifying plans due to ongoing reforms to the coastal legislation, member Council are encouraged to adopt the final plan. Councils' are more likely to have a strong case for grant funding for Estuary Management Programs and success with their applications if the GRCZMP is adopted.

The GRCCC estuary management cluster group will continue to work together to implement actions in line with the GRCZMP plan, after the final plan has been adopted.

Botany Bay Water Quality Monitoring Buoys

The GRCCC received a grant in June 2013 from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to engage a subcontractor to continue to service and maintain the Botany Bay network of five monitoring buoys (pictured) for a further 12 months up until the 30 June 2014.

The five real-time water quality monitoring buoys service the Botany Bay Catchment and are located in the estuarine reaches of both the Georges and Cooks River and in Botany Bay. This allows for the monitoring, display and examination of catchment and sub-catchment real-time water quality monitoring data for the following parameters: Electrical Conductivity, PAR (photosynthetically active radiation), Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-A, Temperature and Turbidity.



GRCCC Programs – ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The ongoing collection of baseline data will allow for the assessment of the effectiveness of on ground interventions to improve water quality in the Botany Bay Catchment to be measured over the long-term.

The data supplied by the network helps to support the River Health Monitoring Program run by the GRCCC. The network also helps support the oyster industry in the Georges River and Botany Bay, by providing freely accessible data on water quality and salinity in the vicinity of their leases. The network also provides important information about the catchment to community, particularly recreational users of the waterways.

Svetlana Kotevska – GRCCC Program Manager

Community River Health Monitoring Program

The Community River Health Monitoring Program has built upon four years of data collection and analysis, community goodwill and Member Council support to continue into 2013/14 without Federal Government funding. The Program was honoured with the 2012 National Urban Landcare Award as an independent show of industry support.



The Urban Landcare Award honours the delivery of a project or initiative that inspires and involves an urban population in delivery of onground projects, campaigns or works with demonstrable natural resource management outcomes connected to the city.

River Health was recognised for engaging community members and creating a greater understanding of environmental issues relating to the highly urbanised Georges River catchment.



Other milestones included the release of the 2011/12 River Health Report Card in February 2013. This highly valued communications tool represented the first Report Card to be released in partnership with Cooks River Alliance, and showed results from monitoring at 59 sites across the Georges and Cooks Rivers' catchments. The Program logged over 700 hours of community engagement in 2012/13 at 18 monitoring sites.

A continued partnership with Georges River Environmental Education Centre (GREC) brought students from nine different schools to experience life as an ecologist and contribute to their local area.

River Health also delivered a series of two macroinvertebrate workshops to 60 secondary students as part of Science and Technology festival in November 2012. The aim of the workshops was to introduce and inspire students to consider careers in the field of ecology and natural resource management.

Additional outcomes included:

- State endorsement of the River Health Program as the preferred method of monitoring in the Georges River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Program
- Continued partnership with the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority's Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Program through collection and inclusion of real-time water quality data from the buoys placed in the river and bay
- Welcoming of the Australian Museum as new partner through the Streamwatch program.

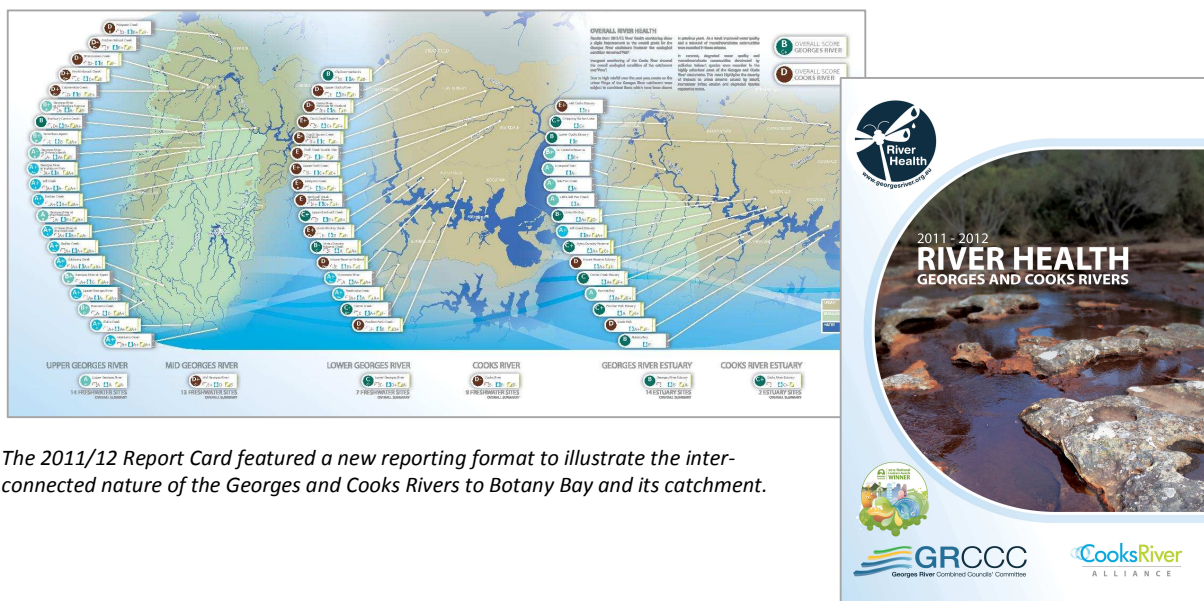
GRCCC Programs – RIVER HEALTH PROGRAM

- Working with technical officers from OEH NSW to complete Spring and Autumn sampling
- Contribution of data and participation in BHP Endeavour Coal license variation sessions for discharge into Brennans Creek.
- Receipt of training at Deakin University for macroinvertebrate survey and identification. This week long workshop was led by macroinvertebrate experts John Gooderham and Edward Tsyrlin, authors of The Waterbug Book.

Funding for the River Health program under the Caring for our Country Initiative concluded in June 2013. The program was successful in exceeding its targets for community engagement and was delivered within budget.

- Councils have recognised the Program's value and agreed to fund it into the future.

Claire Evans – River Health Program Coordinator



The 2011/12 Report Card featured a new reporting format to illustrate the interconnected nature of the Georges and Cooks Rivers to Botany Bay and its catchment.



Left: Cooks River Alliance Chairperson Strathfield Mayor Brian Robson and GRCCC Chair Naji Peter Najjar display the 2011/12 River Health Report Card.

Middle: River Health Program Coordinator Claire Evans stands with Banks MP Daryl Melham and the 2012 Urban Landcare Award.

Right: Students from Airds High School at Macquarie Fields conduct sampling at The Woolwash.

GRCCC Communications & Engagement Program

The Communications and Engagement Program continues its role as a central and coordinating player in developing and delivering educational platforms. The program continues to build on the positive partnerships built through its network of stakeholders at a variety of disciplines.

One focus of engagement this year was on the **CrossCurrents Art & Environment Festival**, held at Garrison Point in Georges Hall in November 2012. With joint funding from WSROC *Water in the Landscape* initiative, the Bankstown Arts Centre teamed up with the GRCCC to carry out a celebratory Saturday afternoon event with art installations, live music and performances, environmental activities and water sports.

2012-13 Achievements

- Development and Endorsement of the **GRCCC Corporate Sponsorship Policy**
- Development of the **Corporate Sponsor Information Packet** and **Collaborators' Agreement**
- Planning and Delivery of the **CrossCurrents Art & Environment Festival**, 2012 in partnership with Bankstown Arts Centre
- Communications Program Review and Assessment of the **Communications & Engagement Work Plan**
- **GRCCC Volunteer Handling Agreement**
- Coordinated release and media engagement of two River Health Report Cards, including stakeholder communications
- In house design of the **Riverkeeper Report Card**
- Generation of the **Georges River Current**, quarterly newsletter
- Development of volunteer recruitment for River Health, Riverkeeper events including posters/flyers and web, media releases and design of volunteer field guides
- Planned and managed **Clean Up Australia Day at three sites** in the catchment (Oyster Bay, Milperra and Hammondville) including stakeholder communications and volunteer recruitment
- Assisted in preparation of applications and co-ordinated media promotion of:



GRCCC Programs – COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Australian Riverprize Finalist (2012)
- National Urban Landcare Award (2012)
- Homepage upgrade and ongoing maintenance of Georges River website www.georgesriver.org.au including [Georges River, NSW Facebook page](#)
- Speaking events, public presentations, workshops and attendance at Council events
- Developing partnerships with new community organisations, including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups, Aboriginal groups, SES NSW
- Development and design of GRCCC Annual Report

GRCCC Communications & Engagement Outputs 2012 - 2013

Media Releases

- Georges River a Nominated Finalist in Riverprize July 2012
- Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative Ends July 2012
- Georges River One of Three Riverprize Finalists Aug 2012
- Riverkeeper Report Released; 115+ Tonnes Rubbish Removed Aug 2012
- River Health Program Winner National Urban Landcare Award Sept 2012
- Georges River Celebrates Environment and Art with
Hosting of CrossCurrents Art & Environment Festival Oct 2012
- River Health Volunteers Needed Oct 2012
- Festival Attracts a Vibrant Crowd Nov 2012
- GRCCC Encourages Public Photography of King Tides Dec 2012
- River Health Report Card Release Feb 2013

Presentations given by GRCCC Staff

- Presentation Riverwood Probus Society Aug 2012
- Hurstville Council Tour Sept 2012
- International Riverfoundation Symposium, Melbourne Oct 2012
- Recycling Week Presentation Nov 2012
- Councillors' Presentation, Kogarah Dec 2012
- Presentation Kogarah Probus Society Dec 2012
- Hurstville Historical Society bus tour Jan & May 2013
- Ryde TAFE Natural Area Restoration Diploma
- Presentation Cooks River Alliance Board Meeting Mar 2013

GRCCC Involvement in Trainings, Events and Forums.

- Waterbug Workshop (Gooderham & Tsyrlin), Deakin University July 2012
- Riverfest, Campbelltown Aug 2012
- Science & Technology Festival, Newington College Sept 2012

GRCCC Programs – COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

- National Landcare Symposium & Gala Sept 2012
- River Health Monitoring for Community Volunteers Oct & Mar 2012
- Oatley Lions Festival, Oatley Oct 2012
- CrossCurrents Art & Environment Festival (GRCCC host) Nov 2012
- Bush Regeneration for Corrective Services
- Social Return on Investment Workshop, Social Ventures Australia Mar 2013
- Kurnell 2020 Field Day Workshops Mar 2013
- Dharawal Indigenous Workshop Apr 2013

GRCCC Volunteer Days

- National Tree Day, Liverpool City Council July 2012
- River Health Sampling Days
 - *With Georges River Environmental Education Centre* Oct & Mar 2012
 - The Woolwash, Barden Creek, Maddens Creek, Ingleburn Weir, Simmo's Beach, Stokes Creek
 - *Open to Public* Oct & Mar 2012
 - Cup & Saucer Wetland (Cooks River), Yeramba Lagoon, Mill Creek, Woronora River, Dharawal, Myles Dunphy Reserve, Lime Kiln Bay, Yarrowee Wetland, Coolibah Reserve (Cooks River), Carina Creek, Appin, Morgans Creek, Upper Cooks River
- Rubbish Collection, Two Hands, Potter Point Nov 2012
- Macroinvertebrate Workshop, Hurstville Art Gallery Dec 2012
- Clean Up Australia Day (at three sites) Mar 2013



The Cross Currents Art & Environment Festival, 2012 celebrated the art, food, cultural diversity and environmental opportunities in the catchment. Eighteen stalls, 9 performing groups and 3 live music sets added to the day.

Looking Ahead, 2013-14

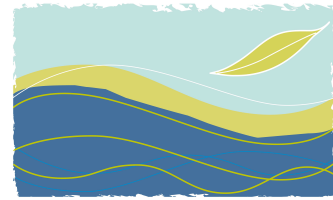
The coming year builds upon the foundation laid through policy development and the Communications Program review which was carried out in 2012/13. As the drive to acquire funding for catchment education and engagement activities continues, the GRCCC will commit staff resources and partner capital to **corporate sponsorship and other third-party funding** sources. Cluster feedback continues to guide the Communications & Engagement Program workplan toward a **greater focus on education** outcomes, and the GRCCC seeks to leverage that interest into projects which remain timely and interactive.

David Kuhn – Communications & Engagement Program Coordinator

Partner Programs – IMPROVING PROSPECT CREEK SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Improving Prospect Creek for Water Quality and Habitat

The Improving Prospect Creek project was funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and involved the collaboration of Bankstown, Fairfield and Holroyd City Councils. The IPC project was developed as a result of the concern for the condition of the creek.



**Improving Prospect Creek
Sustainability Initiative**

The Prospect Creek Catchment is located in Sydney's south west and covers an area of 98 square kilometres. Prospect Creek is approximately 26 km long and flows from the Prospect Reservoir to the Georges River at Georges Hall.

The objectives of the project were to:

1. Improve the condition and extent of native vegetation communities along the Prospect Creek riparian corridor
2. Increase understanding of the current biological values of the creek's riparian corridor
3. Identify, assess and prioritise Local Government management actions to rehabilitate the ecological functions of Prospect Creek
4. Develop relationships between land managers, indigenous groups and community members to better manage Prospect Creek
5. Increase awareness of the significance of Prospect Creek and encourage greater participation in the rehabilitation of the creek by the local community

Status of the Project

The grant funding stage of the project is completed, with the following tasks completed:

- Preparation of a Strategic Management Plan to guide natural resource management activities for Prospect Creek into the future
- 11 community working bees with approximately 260 residents and students
- Over 30 000 native plants in the ground
- Over 70 000 square metres of bush regeneration work
- Installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap and bank stabilisation at the end of Little Street, Smithfield

Tim Johnson

IPCSI Program Manager, Fairfield City Council

**OPERATIONAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2013**

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Membership and Program fees	356,403	318,184
Operating Grants	222,720	315,444
Interest	18,223	25,493
Other Revenue	28,339	62,946
Australian Government Grants to Voluntary Environmental and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program	4,000	2,300
Total Revenue	629,686	724,366
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	(354,319)	(381,142)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(23,146)	(11,348)
Materials & Contracts	(117,438)	(215,708)
Other expenses	(31,452)	(27,768)
Total Expenses	(530,955)	(635,966)
Surplus / (deficit) before income tax	103,331	88,400
Income tax expense	0	0
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	103,331	88,400
Other comprehensive income:		
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	103,331	88,400

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	562,222	538,100
Trade and other receivables	3	51,355	19,525
Other current assets	5	2,125	7,458
Total current assets		615,702	565,083
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	52,707	75,853
Total non-current assets		52,707	75,853
TOTAL ASSETS		668,405	640,936
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	19,130	80,058
Employee leave entitlement provision	8	22,720	36,265
Total current liabilities		41,850	116,323
Non-current liabilities			
Employee leave entitlement provision	8	6,620	8,005
Total Non-current liabilities		6,620	8,005
TOTAL LIABILITIES		48,470	124,328
NET ASSETS		619,939	516,608
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated surplus		619,939	516,608
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		619,939	516,608

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013
2013

	Accumulated surplus	Members' funds
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2012	516,608	516,608
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	103,331	103,331
Other comprehensive income for the year	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2013	619,939	619,939

2012

	Accumulated surplus	Members' funds
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2011	428,208	428,208
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	88,400	88,400
Other comprehensive income for the year	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2012	516,608	516,608

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Membership and Program Fees		338,630	297,440
Operating grants receipts		224,720	317,744
Other receipts		48,697	79,893
Payments to suppliers and employees		(606,148)	(547,824)
Interest received		18,223	19,523
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9	<u>24,122</u>	<u>166,846</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		0	(7,897)
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>0</u>	<u>(7,897)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		24,122	158,949
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		<u>538,100</u>	<u>379,151</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2	<u>562,222</u>	<u>538,100</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) General information

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee is an association incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act 2009 of New South Wales and is domiciled in Australia.

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 of New South Wales. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the Group commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Plant and Equipment	10% - 20%
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The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies continued

(d) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date and is measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(e) Income Tax

The association is a not-for-profit institution and is exempt from income tax.

(f) Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown exclusive of GST.

(h) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year where required by accounting standards or as a result of a change in accounting policy.

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
2 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	71,196	29,758
Deposit	<u>491,026</u>	<u>508,342</u>
	<u>562,222</u>	<u>538,100</u>
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>562,222</u>	<u>538,100</u>
	<u>562,222</u>	<u>538,100</u>
3 Trade and Other Receivables		
CURRENT		
Income Accruals	49,430	12,804
GST Claimables	<u>1,925</u>	<u>6,722</u>
	<u>51,355</u>	<u>19,525</u>
5 Other Assets		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	<u>2,125</u>	<u>7,458</u>
	<u>2,125</u>	<u>7,458</u>

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
6 Property Plant and Equipment		
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	230,811	230,811
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>178,104</u>	<u>154,958</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>52,707</u>	<u>75,853</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>52,707</u>	<u>75,853</u>
Movements in Carrying Amounts		
	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$
Current Year		
Balance at the beginning of 1 July 2012	75,853	75,853
Depreciation expense	<u>23,146</u>	<u>23,146</u>
Carrying amount at the end of 30 June 2013	<u>52,707</u>	<u>52,707</u>
Prior Year		
Balance at the beginning of 1 July 2011	79,305	79,305
Additions	7,897	7,897
Depreciation expense	<u>11,347</u>	<u>11,347</u>
Carrying amount at the end of 30 June 2012	<u>75,853</u>	<u>75,853</u>

Georges River Combined Councils Committee Inc

7 Trade and Other Payables

CURRENT		
Trade payables	9,855	17,184
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	9,275	62,874
	<u>19,130</u>	<u>80,058</u>

8 Provisions

CURRENT		
Employee benefits	22,720	36,265
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits	6,620	8,005
	<u>29,340</u>	<u>44,270</u>

9 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income Tax		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	103,331	88,400
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities:		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
Depreciation	23,146	11,347
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(31,830)	(1,583)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	5,333	9,364
(Decrease)/increase in trade payables and accruals	(60,928)	35,947
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	(14,930)	23,370
	<u>24,122</u>	<u>166,846</u>
	<u>24,122</u>	<u>166,846</u>

Georges River Combined Councils' Committee

ABN 18 246 792 704

Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 10:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Georges River Combined Councils' Committee as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Georges River Combined Councils' Committee will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Responsible Officer



Manager – Environmental Sustainability – Hurstville City Council – Alison Hanlon

Responsible Officer



Program Manager – GRCCC – Svetlana Kotevska

Date: 18 September 2013



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GEORGES RIVER
COMBINED COUNCILS' COMMITTEE INC**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc as at 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

ce Partners

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33 7950

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Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc to meet the requirements of the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Hill Rogers Spencer Steer
Assurance Partners

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Hanger".

.....
BRETT HANGER
Partner

Dated at Sydney this 3rd day of October 2013

APPENDIX A – GRCCC Representation on Partner Programs

Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Program Reference Committee – GRCCC Programs Manager
Kurnell 2020 – GRCCC Riverkeeper Program Coordinator
Cooks River Alliance – GRCCC River Health Program Co-Coordinator

Meetings of the GRCCC

Meetings of the GRCCC were held bi-monthly with the location rotating between member Councils. The 2012 Local Government elections and other factors postponed some meetings. During 2012-13 meetings were held on the following dates:

23 August 2012 at Sutherland Shire Council
22 November 2012 at Fairfield City Council (Annual General Meeting)
28 February 2013 at Campbelltown City Council
27 June 2013 at Rockdale City Council

The GRCCC Executive Group met on the following dates at the Host Council:

8 August 2012
12 December 2012
12 February 2013
13 March 2013
24 April 2013
12 June 2013

Appendix B – Member Council Representation at GRCCC Meetings

HOST COUNCIL	Aug 2012	Nov 2012	Feb 2013	June 2013
	Sutherland	Fairfield	Campbelltown	Rockdale
Bankstown				
Councillor	X	X	X	X
Staff	X	X	X	X
Campbelltown				
Councillor	X	X	X	
Staff	X	X	X	X
Fairfield				
Councillor		X		
Staff	X	X	X	X
Hurstville				
Councillor	X	X		X
Staff	X	X	X	X
Kogarah				
Councillor				
Staff	X	X	X	X
Liverpool				
Councillor		X		X
Staff	X	X	X	X
Rockdale				
Councillor			X	X
Staff	X	X	X	X
Sutherland				
Councillor	X	X	X	X
Staff	X	X	X	X
Wollondilly				
Councillor				
Staff				

Appendix C - Election of Office Bearers 22 November 2012

The following members of the GRCCC were elected as office bearers at the Annual General Meeting at Fairfield City Council:

Chairperson: Cr Naji Peter Najjar (Bankstown City Council)

Vice President: Cr Peter Scaysbrook (Sutherland Shire Council)

Public Officer / Treasurer: Cr Peter Ristevski (Liverpool City Council)

2012-13 Hosting of the GRCCC: Hurstville City Council

The GRCCC would like to express its sincere thanks to Hurstville City Council for the tremendous support provided during the 2012-13 period. In particular, we would like to thank Hurstville Council Host Managers Ian Curtis, Manager Environmental Sustainability, and Alison Hanlon who have provided valuable support and advice to the GRCCC.

APPENDIX D – Participating Councils and Other Organisations

Bankstown City Council

Cr Naji Peter Najjar, Member
Mr James Carey, Manager
Ms Cherie Blackburn, Technical Officer
Ms Robyn Young, Technical Officer
Ms Rebecca Bell, Technical Officer
Ms Emily Forrest, Team Leader
Ms Vandana Ram, Bankstown Arts Centre
Mr Trent Reed, Technical Officer

Campbelltown City Council

Cr Julie Bourke, Member
Cr George Greiss, Member
Ms Renee Winsor, Manager
Mr Mathew Egan, Project Mgr UGRSI
Ms Alana Keane, Technical Officer
Mr Andrew Atteweil, Technical Officer

Fairfield City Council

Cr Dai Le
Mr Stuart Rodham, Manager
Mr Erin Sellers, Manager
Ms Nicole Thomas, Technical officer
Mr Darren Ikin, Technical Officer
Mr Eddie Ferry, Technical Officer
Mr Neil Ramsay, Technical Officer
Mr Scott Reyes, Technical Officer

Hurstville City Council

Cr Philip Sansom, Member
Cr Michele Stevens, Member
Cr Steve McMahon, Member
Cr Anne Wagstaff, Member
Mr Ian Curtis, Manager
Ms Nicole Boyd, Technical Officer
Ms Samantha Watkins, Technical Officer
Mr Rob Casey, Manager
Ms Alison Hanlon, Manager

Kogarah City Council

Cr Nick Varvaris, Member
Mr Glen Moody, Manager
Mr Tom Heath, Technical Officer

Liverpool City Council

Cr Peter Harle, Member
Cr Gary Lucas, Member
Cr Peter Ristevski, Member
Ms Sandra Kubecka, Manager
Mr Arvind Lal, Manager
Mr Joel Daniels, Technical Officer

Rockdale City Council

Cr Joe Awada, Member
Mr David Dekel, Manager
Ms Alexandra Vandine, Technical Officer
Ms Leah Ilkiw, Technical Officer
Mr Adam Smith, Technical Officer

Sutherland Shire Council

Cr Mark Buttigieg, Member
Cr Kent Johns, Member
Cr Kevin Schrieber, Member
Cr Peter Scaysbrook, Member
Cr Tom Croucher, Member
Mr Gwyn Cleeves, Manager
Mr Brendon Graham, Manager
Ms Beth Noel, Technical Officer
Mr Paul Price, Bushcare Coordinator
Ms Julie Nimmo, Technical Officer
Ms Tegan Yasserie, Technical Officer

Wollondilly Shire Council

Cr Michael Banasik, Member
Mr Brad Staggs, Manager
Ms Alexandra Stengl, Technical Officer
Ms Alex Burgess-Buxton, Technical Officer

National Parks & Wildlife Service

Mr Andres Bianchi
Mr Michael Hand
Mr Barry Hodgson
Ms Christine Hopkins
Mr Jason Bishop

Department of Primary Industries NSW

Ms Carla Ganassin
Mr Dan Cross
Ms Kylie Russell

Parramatta River Catchment Group

Ms Leanne Hanvey

Oceanwatch Australia

Mr Simon Rowe
Mr Michael Wooden

Sydney Water

Ms Liz Minor
Ms Helena Orel
Mr Jake Atkins
Mr Daniel Cunningham

Corrective Services NSW

Mr Shaun Cleary
Mr Bill Hopley

Office of Environment and Heritage

Mr Daniel Wiecek
Mr Dan Mawer
Ms Jan Miller
Ms Gunta Thiesscenger

Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Mr John Carse
Mr Owen Graham
Mr John Dahlenburg
Mr Phill Birtles

Ms Karen Kennedy
Ms Nerida Gill
Ms Joanne Moore

Cooks River Alliance

Mr Chris Hudson
Ms Shefali Chakrabarty

Department of Education and Training

Ms Sharyn Cullis – Georges River Environmental Education Centre
Mr Garth Jones – Georges River Environmental Education Centre

Community Representatives

Ms Sharyn Cullis – Georges River Environmental Alliance
Mr Peter Tralagga – Georges River Environmental Alliance
Ms Dawn Emerson – Past GRCCC President
Mr Lew Solberg – Gandangara Aboriginal Land Council
Mr Brian Shaw – Botany Bay & Catchment Alliance
Ms Signe Westerberg – Upper Georges River Sustainability Initiative
Ms Melina Amerasinghe – Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative
Kim Wagstaff – Friends of Oatley

GRCCC Staff

Ms Alison Hanlon, GRCCC Program Manager
Mr Tony Wales, Riverkeeper Coordinator
Ms Claire Evans, River Health Coordinator
Mr David Kuhn, Communications/Engagement Coordinator
Mr Carl Tippler, River Health Coordinator
Ms Svetlana Kotevska, GRCCC Program Manager

NSW Maritime Authority

Mr Graeme Dunlavye

APPENDIX E – GRCCC Program Cluster Members

Georges River Estuary Management Cluster

Cr Philip Sansom	Hurstville City Council
Gwyn Cleeves	Sutherland Shire Council
Ian Curtis / Alison Hanlon	Hurstville City Council
Alison Hanlon / Svetlana Kotevska	GRCCC Program Manager
Cherie Blackburn	Bankstown City Council
Joel Daniels & Maruf Hossain	Liverpool City Council
Carla Ganassin	NSW Dept of Primary Industries
John Dahlenburg	HNCMA
Sharyn Cullis	Community Rep
Fred El Bahou	Community Rep
Alexandra Vandine	Rockdale City Council
Mick Hand	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Erin Sellers	Fairfield City Council
Tony Wales	GRCCC
David Kuhn	GRCCC

Riverkeeper Program Cluster

Rebecca Bell / Paul Morse	Bankstown City Council
Andrew Attewell / Renee Winsor	Campbelltown City Council
Nicole Thomas	Fairfield City Council
Nicole Boyd / Ian Curtis / Heather Stolle / Rob Casey / Samantha Watkins	Hurstville City Council
Tom Heath / Glen Moody	Kogarah City Council
Joel Daniels & Liverpool Council Bush Regeneration Team	Liverpool City Council
Alexandra Vandine / Adam Smith / Leah Ilkiw	Rockdale City Council
Beth Noel / Paul Price / Brendon Graham and SSC Bushcare Team	Sutherland Shire Council
Brad Staggs / Alex Stengl	Wollondilly Shire Council
Mat Egan	UGRSI / Campbelltown City
Tim Johnson / Eddie Ferry	Improving Prospect Creek USP / Fairfield City Council
Tony Wales	GRCCC
Alison Hanlon	GRCCC Program Manager
Shaun Cleary / Darryn Ross	DCS NSW
Nerida Gill	HNCMA
Mick Hand / Barry Hodgson	NPWS

River Health Monitoring Program

Rebecca Bell / Robyn Young	Bankstown City Council
Renee Winsor / Alana Keane	Campbelltown City Council
Nicole Thomas / Neil Ramsay	Fairfield City Council
Ian Curtis / Nicole Boyd	Hurstville City Council
Tom Heath	Kogarah City Council
Joel Daniels	Liverpool City Council
Alexandra Vandine / Leah Ilkiw	Rockdale City Council
Beth Noel / Tegan Yasserie	Sutherland Shire Council
Alex Stengl	Wollondilly Shire Council
Sharyn Cullis / Anne Brian / Garth Jones	Georges River Environmental Education Centre
Liz Minor	Sydney Water
Alison Hanlon / Svetlana Kotevska	GRCCC Program Manager
Claire Evans	GRCCC
David Kuhn	GRCCC

Finance and Administration Cluster

Cr Julie Bourke	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Naji Najjar	Bankstown City Council
Cr Peter Harle	Liverpool City Council
Cr Peter Scaysbrook	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr Peter Ristevski	Liverpool City Council
James Carey	Bankstown City Council
Erin Sellers	Fairfield City Council
Ian Curtis	Hurstville City Council
Glen Moody	Kogarah City Council
Joel Daniels / Arvind Lal	Liverpool City Council
David Dekel / Alexandra Vandine	Rockdale City Council
Ian Drinnan / Beth Noel	Sutherland Shire Council
Andrew Spooner / Renee Winsor	Campbelltown City Council
Alison Hanlon	GRCCC Program Manager

GRCCC Communications & Engagement Cluster

Robyn Young / Rebecca Bell / Casli Mehmed	Bankstown City Council
Renee Winsor / Peta Gismondo	Campbelltown City Council
Nicole Thomas / Morgan Downs	Fairfield City Council
Nicole Boyd / Tanya Abraham / Anthea Desmond-Gregory	Hurstville City Council
Tom Heath / Eva Papas	Kogarah City Council
Joel Daniels / Fiona Lelilo	Liverpool City Council
Leah Ilkiw / Alexandra Vandine / Colin Henderson / Justin Sheining	Rockdale City Council
Beth Noel / Tegan Yasserie / Karen Lord	Sutherland Shire Council
Brad Staggs / Damion Stirling / Joanne Down	Wollondilly Shire Council
Louise MacMahon	HNCMA

David Kuhn	GRCCC
Alison Hanlon	GRCCC Program Manager